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Governor awards Trumbull native for community service

Lincoln, Neb. – Alicia O'Donnell, Trumbull native and Hastings College graduate, left Washington D.C. in 2010 to return home to the good life of rural Nebraska. For volunteers of the Trumbull Community Foundation fund (TCF), Alicia provided just the boost of energy, spirit, and leadership needed. Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem honored Alicia today for her volunteer efforts with the Governor's Points of Light adult award at a ceremony in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol. The awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska, Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

While Alicia was away, Trumbull had lost its school, so TCF was formed to repurpose the school building to a community center. A special celebration for Trumbull's approaching 125th anniversary was in the planning stages, but the officers were weary from four years of fundraising. Thankfully, Alicia agreed to lead the Q125 celebration and was elected to the Fund Advisory Committee. She masterfully organized a successful three-day event in July 2011, drawing a crowd of 600, three times the size of the village. She mobilized the entire community, from children and teens, to senior citizens, to help plan and execute the event, gaining new volunteers through a first venture into social media. She partnered with the Village Board, local businesses and churches, and media organizations, and turned a budgeted expense into a \$7,500 fundraiser for the Foundation.

Alicia's second big undertaking was to lead the History Book project, to collect and edit a volume of history from Trumbull's first 125 years. The resulting 300-page book will record Trumbull's unique place and time in Nebraska history.

In addition to teaching weekly religious instruction to teens, Alicia recently chaperoned a group of Nebraska youth to Washington, D.C. She also helps at many events for senior citizens. Since 2010, she has volunteered 900 hours with TCF, mostly leading others, which has a multiplier effect.

For her willingness to lead, her ability to connect with all ages, and her impact as a spark in motivating other volunteers, Alicia O'Donnell is a "point of light" for the Trumbull community.

To nominate a youth, adult or group for a Governor's Points of Light Award who have made a difference through volunteerism and community service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov. The next nomination deadline is June 15, 2013.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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